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June 1998



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

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Ø-Beat



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association Officers and Directors

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*This Officer/Director is completing the second year of the two-year term to which they were elected.

The Ø-Beat is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see the last page of this publication. Monthly advertising rates: Full page, \$48; Half page, \$24; Quarter page, \$12; Business card, \$6. These rates are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Check out the PPRAA page on the World Wide Web! Go to: <http://www.qsl.net/ppraa>

Deadline for submission of articles or advertisements is the Monday after Board meeting. Submissions are accepted in any form. Articles should be sent directly to the Ø-Beat Editor (email to kd0ju-1@juno.com is preferred.) Permission is granted to reprint articles provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

License Exams

License examinations sponsored by the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association are held on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Testing takes place at 9 A.M. at:

Denver Technical College
 225 South Union
 Colorado Springs

Everyone is seated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an exam should bring the following items:

1. \$6.25 (preferably a check/money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.

3. A copy of your current amateur radio license, and/or a copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the signed original. We keep the copies.

4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any questions, call Erik Mugele, KGØXE at 596-5345. Please do not call Denver Technical College.

Committee Chairpersons/Contacts

Ø-Beat Editor	Bill Pierce	KDØJU	550-0406
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Auditing	Any Volunteer's?		
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Historian	Jody Borst	KAØROZ	634-3995
Interference	Bill Petty	NØNJX	532-1439
Membership	Les Borst	KCØNC	634-3995
Programs	Jeff Boyes	NØJLH	229-5703
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Public Service	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
Swapfest '99			
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VE Testing	Erik Mugele	KGØXE	596-5345

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ARES Liaison	Mike Stansberry	KØTER	636-1290
CCARC Liaison	Ron Deutsch	NKØP	593-8352
RACES Liaison	Bryan Curl	NØLUF	575-8400

Reminder — General Membership Meeting

The next General Membership meeting of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will be on the second Wednesday of this month at the Mt Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 N. Circle. The meeting will start at 1900.

ANNOUNCEMENT May Meeting

May PPRAA meeting place will be at Mt Calvary Lutheran Church 1318 N Circle at 1900. All are welcome to come and observe and/or participate. KØTER, Mike will talk about Field Day.

ANNOUNCEMENT Next Board Meeting

Next board meeting will be at QTH of Greg WA2OOD on June 15th. Directions forthcoming via email. Greg usually monitors 146.52

ACTIVITY FOR JUNE

This month's activity will be at the Metro Miniature Golf on June 20th at 1 pm. It is located the corner of Palmer Park and Powers.

June Program

The program for the June meeting of the PPRAA will be focused on Field Day.

Mike Stansberry, KØTER, will be presenting general Field Day 'stuff' as well as an overview on the operation of the logging program (CT) that we will be using.

If you plan on helping out at Field Day (and who doesn't?) you will want to be at this meeting.

73,

Jeff NØJLH

PPRAA Hosts Simplex Net

The PPRAA will begin hosting a 2mtr simplex net starting this Thursday May 14th at 1900 local time on 146.580. The purpose of the net is both informational about the PPRAA activities and instructional about the advantages of a simplex operation on 2meters.

After the formal portion of the net there will be a roundtable discussion.

This will be a great opportunity to check out your 2 mtr radios and antenna system.

Note: The Six meter roundtable net will follow after the close of the 2mtr net.

Ron--NKØP

The Swapfest Sponsors of the 1998 PPRAA Swapfest is here. If we have over looked any one that was not our attention just let us know.

HRO

8400 E. Iliff, Suite #9, Denver, Co. 80231

Gateway Electronic

2525 N. Federal, Denver, Co. 80211

OEM Parts

3025 N. Hancock, Colo. Springs, Co. 80907

International Tesla Society

2220 E. Bijou, Colo. Springs, Co. 80909

World Radio

PO Box 189490, Sacramento, Ca. 95818

Computer Music

3037 N. Hancock, Colo. Springs, Co. 80907

True Value Hardware

3131 W. Colo. Ave, Colo. Springs, Co. 80904

Centennial Electronics

2324 E. Bijou, Colo. Springs, Co. 80909

6 Star Factory Outlet

1786 W. Uintah, Colo. Springs, Co. 80904

Sky Sox Baseball Club

4385 Tutt Blvd, Colo. Springs, Co. 80922

Palace Casino

172 Bennet Ave, Cripple Creek, Co. 80813

Creekers Casino

274\276 Bennet Ave, Cripple Creek, Co. 80813

Bronco Billy's Casino

233 E. Bennet Ave. Cripple creek, Co. 80813

Hometown Buffet

3650 Austin Bluffs, Colo. Springs, Co. 80918

Country Buffet

7665 N. Academy Blvd, Colo. Springs, Co. 80920

Country Buffet

751 N. Academy Blvd, Colo. Springs, Co. 80909

Office Max

Citadel Crossing, 823 N. Academy
Blvd, Colo. Springs, Co. 80909

Tech America

1550 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, Co. 80222-3700

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740 S. 8th st. Colo. Springs, Co. 80905

We thank the sponsors for their support of The PPRAA SwapFest. Last but not least all the people that helped make this Swapfest a success, deserve a big **THANK YOU.**

Any additions can be sent to:

NØQJS, John and WAØMNL, Rosie (and the editor)

President's Corner

June, 1998

I hope you all had a chance to experience our swapfest this year. I hope you all took mental notes of the good points and also of the areas where we could improve things for next year. The next time you see a pen or pencil, grab it and write down those notes. Scribble them down on this copy of Ø-Beat if you can't find another piece of paper. I'll tell you what to do with those notes in a moment.

Everyone likes to have an well-organized and well-run swapfest, Field Day, picnic and other events, right? I'll bet that most of you have heard a comment or two, if not a complaint, about some aspect of each of these events that could have been better. Am I right (raise your hand if I am)? I thought so. And what happens to those comments and complaints? Nothing! And what happens the next year when a new person or people organize the same event? It has to be re-invented! (Note: Three cheers and a big at-boy for everyone that has re-invented a swapfest, picnic, Field Day or other activity. Your efforts ARE Appreciated!)

Wouldn't it have been easier to run these events if they didn't need to be re-invented? If we could simply repeat each step of a previous year's event, we could duplicate the event and wouldn't be any worse off, would we? If we could find a way to tweak and improve those weak areas, wouldn't it be great? If we had a way to follow a step-by-step description of how to run an event, heck, we might even be able to get new people volunteer to run or help with the event (with a much lower risk of getting Grey hair)!

So how do we make it happen? How do we come up a way to at least repeat an event? How can we improve on what we did the last time? Let me suggest that the last group to run a particular event meet and jot down absolutely everything that they can remember about what they did, what happened and what they think should be done. One or two folks can maybe organize these thoughts and maybe we'll wind up with a start for the next year. The swapfest committee is documenting what they have done this year. Kudos to the swapfest committee! I'd like to see this happen for all of our other activities as well.

To answer the question of what to do with all those notes that I asked you to write, give them to a member of the swapfest committee (I'm sure they'll just love me for this! Hey, I'm serious) for inclusion into the swapfest document. If you can't find a member, give the notes to me and I'll make sure they get to the committee. Another option would be to drop the comments into the club suggestion box.

which will be at the next meeting, and we'll get the information to the right person.

Just as a reminder, the suggestion box is also a good way to get information, comments or complaints (please be civil!) to the PPRAA board on any subject or activity. Comments can be kept anonymous, if you wish. If you have any ideas that will benefit the club, let us know. You can also talk to any of us on the board directly to let us know what is on your mind.

Before I close, I thought I'd mention that the HF bands are really starting to come to life with DX again. I've been doing more listening than talking on HF (VHF, too), but I've heard a lot of good stuff on 20 and 15 meters as well as the other bands. For the technicians and tech pluses out there, you might want to consider visiting a friend who works the HF bands and listen in for a while. Maybe its time to brush up on the code and upgrade. If anyone who works mobile HF is willing to demo their setup in the parking lot at the next meeting, maybe you'll see what I am talking about.

I'll step down off the soapbox now (an old wire spool, actually) and see you at the next meeting! By the way, thanks to Nick, KG5N, and Rick, K0SU for excellent programs at the last two meetings! Expect another good program this month. With Field Day coming up, you've got another opportunity to hear HF in action. Techs and Tech-lites are encouraged to attend!

Greg Tarcza, WA2OOD

OM/YL

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will be held on the 18th of June the Country Buffet at the Citadel Crossing Shopping Center.

We meet at noon, but some arrive earlier. Everyone is cordially invited!

Rosie won't be with us this time so if you have a question you may call Moe, WB0RTF (the editor's wife!) at phone is 550-0406.

73

Moe, WB0RTF & (Rosie, WA0MNL)

General Membership Meeting

May 13, 1998

Meeting called to order by President WA2OOD at 19.00.

Introduction of each member and guest by giving name and call and what Frequency they hang out on. Treasurers report given by Rob N7LV (see his report in separate page of Q-Beat also report on swapfest) Minutes approved as printed in Q-Beat with following correction change Dougs call from w0mhp to WB0MHP in general membership meeting for April

Committee Reports.

Activity Given by Les KC0NC for Renay

Mays activity will be the Ham and Eggs activity, which was canceled in April do to inclement weather. Public service Mike K0TER no events which this club serves. Doc W0MCT brought up why club not involved in Hill Climb, as it has been a club sponsored event in past. And some other organization seems to have taken over these events. Quite a discussion was carried on by several members on why ARES seems to have taken over events and not PPRAA. It seems like a compromise for who runs events was reached PPRAA board and others will look into this further.

CCRAC Ron NK0P

PPRAA will host them here in September need a program.

Historian Jody N0ROZ nothing new

Interference Bill N0NJX nothing

Membership Les

KC0NC brought up should Club roster have email address or phone numbers as not room for both may just alternate on this.

Publicity Ron NK0P

We as a club fail to publicize our selves, need to mention PPRAA when we talk to visitors to our city or new residents. We will have a club net on 146.58 at 19.00 starting on Thursday May 14th.

Technical instructions Linda KBØRKW

No more ham classes till September. (possible a General class) no others till 1999.

Obeat Bill KDØJU

The deadline for articles is one week after Board meeting.

Custodian Mike KØTER

Have equipment transfer forms on hand, so if you have equipment and loan it to someone fill out form and get it to him.

Field Day Mike KØTER,

Field day is 4th full weekend in June. This year it will be at HP Recreation facility. We need a coordinator for the HF SSB station and the Novice Tech Station.

Announcements

Oct 3rd will have a display at East Library Aaron KD6FLM will coordinate it. QSL board and club Banner has been found. Rob N7LV is going to order club jacket contact him if you want one \$29.95 for lined and \$24.95 for unlined. Bill NØNJX asked that club members please contact a board member as we are here to do the wishes of the club and not to do just we want to do. Ron NKØP any one wishing to get a 50 foot Rohn 10 tower for the taking down contact him. Doug WBØMHP had Announcements on Round tables (see announcement in ØBeat) also fox hunt this

coming Sunday at 14.00. Be at Austin Bluff radio shack at 13.45.

Old Business: We need a secretary. Paula KCØAGG was nominated and unanimously elected to fill out the remaining term of secretary till October elections.

New Business: Dan KBØPPM needs help with JOTA, needs quite a few stations, please contact him date is

Oct. 17th. PPRAA picnic will be August 16th at Air Force Academy picnic area #3. Hammy award by Austin WB6RML to Rob N7LV. Next Board meeting will be at QTH of Les KCØNC on Monday May 18th. Program for tonight a talk and slide presentation on 6 meters by Rick KØSU, it was a very enlightening and interesting program and enjoyed by all.

Meeting adjourned at 21.15

Submitted by acting Secretary AJ NØCMW

BOARD MEETING

May 18th, 1998

Board Meeting for May 18, 1998 at the QTH of Les KCØNC and Jodi KAØROZ.

Present were; Greg WA2OOD, Les KCØNC, Paula KCØAGG, Rob N7LV, Bill KDØJU, Moe WBØRTF, Jody KAØROZ, Aaron KD6FLM, Bill NØNJX, Jeff NØJLH, Ron NKØP, Doug WBØMHP, Renay KAØROY

The meeting opened with a request from Greg WA2OOD that a calendar of up coming events and dates be put in the Ø-beat, calling it "Amateur Radio Events". He also mentioned the PPRAA simplex net being held every Thursday evening at 7:00pm on 146.580. There is good excitement about this net, resulting in 29 check ins, with the net running about 55 minutes. Much information can be exchanged during this net, such as the Poker cards being given out at different events like the foxhunt and other activities, stated by Renay KAØROY.

Doug WBØMHP for the club assets volunteered to accompany Mike Stansberry during inventory in place of a board member. Instead, Jeff NØJLH and Ron NKØP volunteered. Doug's intent was to see that an inventory occurred in the near future. The club generator was not at the Colorado Springs Stolen Property Recovery section and we are still in need of the police report for our records.

Jeff NØJLH, will again attempt to contact Harry NØSFP; Harry, if you read this, please contact Jeff NØJLH.

Rob N7LV wishes to start planning next years Swap Fest and is in need of a chair person and possibly a Swap Fest Committee to help organize this exciting event.

You will find notes of the Elmer Nets on the PPRAA Web pages.

Pete Petry was not reimbursed for last years Field Day breakfast, and a motion by Jeff NØJLH, and Ron NKØP seconded. The motion passed unanimously that Pete be reimbursed the \$70.00.

Aaron KD6FLM, has not heard any information yet on the Library Exhibit being planned for OCT 3, 1998.

Renay KAØROY has 2 suggestions for activities on Saturdays, Cripple Creek or Mini Golf. June 20 activity is Mountasia, on Academy, 3rd Saturday in June 1:00pm Mini Golf. She is looking for suggestions for the Christmas party this year, please give her a call.

[Editors note: The activity has been changed. See previous announcement.]

Jody KAØROZ needs new boxes for materials, a motion Bill NØNJX and NØJLH Jeff seconded that the club reimburse her for the purchase of new boxes, motion passed.

Rob N7LV will bring to the club meeting the jackets that have been ordered.

Jeff NØJLH has some ideas about upgrading the News letter front page. Les KCØNC volunteered to help in this exciting project. Possibly get a committee to also help give the News letter a "New LOOK".

June's program will be related to Field Day. He also needs other suggestions for programs for upcoming meetings.

Vacationing people will be Rob N7LV, Moe WBØRTF and Bill KDØJU in July. Next board meeting will be at the QTH of Greg WA2OOD. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm local.

Treasurer's Report for period ending 04/30/98

□

Income - Expenses = Gain/(Loss)

\$0.00 - \$764.56 = (\$764.56)

For more details, please contact me.

Don't let this large expense fool you. Nearly \$600 was associated with the swapfest, which as you know didn't occur until after April 30. Because I end my reporting period at the end of the last FULL month prior to Zero Beat publication, I won't have May's report until July. But let me assure you that the swapfest did turn a profit, not as much as I would have hoped to, but more than last year. The profit of the swapfest was just below \$800, counting the profit from the ARRL book sales and the estimated refund from the VE team.

Speaking of the swapfest, thanks to Phil Pearsall KC5LXC for answering the call to lead the swapfest effort this year. He, along with all the folks that have been meeting monthly, and all the folks that pitched in on swapfest day, made it a big success. Bob Ryals KIØGF will be working on a swapfest planning guide for the PPRAA so that future chairpersons will have written experiences of those that have done this before.

The PPRAA simplex net is off to a good start, thanks to Ron NKØP. Just this past April I spent two weeks in Augusta GA and happened to check in to a club net of the ARC of Augusta. That was a pretty nice net, with checkins from GA and SC, and topics from public service, Skywarn (big in that area), club happenings, and a roundtable that lasted over an hour. Topics on one night I checked in ranged from

astronomy to a discussion of the purpose of the round ball atop most flag poles.

Finally, I was pleasantly surprised by an invitation from Debbie Thiem and her third grade class from Prairie Hills Elem Sch to accompany them on a field trip to Lockheed-Martin for Space Day, May 21. Lockheed-Martin hosted about 1,000 kids on this day, showing them two videos about space; one was a documentary of Dr Ron Sega's flights into space and visit to Mir, and an IMAX movie (without the big screen) about Shannon Lucid's 6 month stay aboard Mir. The kids (and me along with the teachers) were then treated to cookies and Tang. This also gave me a good opportunity to get a group photo of the kids wearing their Mir sweatshirts since the shirts weren't ready by the actual contact date. Now, if I can just get the film developed.

For Sale: DIT & BITS

For George, WBØDUM

- Icom 211 All Mode 2 Mtr. Trans.
- Mast, Telescoping 40 ft.
- KLM140watt 2 mtr. Amp.
- 8" Wall mount brackets
- Misc. computer boards
- Scanner Antenna

Contact George for prices and other info at 495-3983

Calendar of Events

June 10: General Membership Meeting.
June 13: VE Testing session.
June 14: Foxhunt.
June 15: Monthly Board Meeting.
June 20: Activity Day.
June 27, 28: Field Day.

July 8: General Membership Meeting.
July 12: Foxhunt.
July 13: Monthly Board Meeting.
July 18: Activity Day.

August 8: VE Testing session.

August 12: General Membership Meeting.
August 16: Annual Picnic
Activity Day
Board Meeting.

September 9: General Membership Meeting.
September 13: Foxhunt.
September 14: Monthly Board Meeting.
September 19: Activity Day.

October 10: VE Testing session.
October 14: General Membership Meeting.
October 18: Foxhunt.
October 19: Monthly Board Meeting.
October 24: Activity Day.

November 11: General Membership Meeting.
November 15: Foxhunt.
November 16: Monthly Board Meeting.
November 21: Activity Day.

December 12: VE Testing session.
December 13: Foxhunt.
December ____: Annual Christmas Party.

Hams Wanted for Pikes Peak Hill Climb!

de N7LV

(reprinted with permission from ARRL)

"At the request of the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb Assn., members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Assn. and the El Paso County (Colo.) AREC on July 4 provided communication for the 40th Annual Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb.

Three nets were established to provide the functions desired, on 75, 6, and 2 meters. Each net represented a specific function: the 75-meter net was used for safety, reporting road conditions and progress of each entrant, and also to halt racing cars in the event of accidents blocking the roadway. The six-meter net was the "Official's Net," used to keep the head starter in constant touch with the official timer at the head of Pike's Peak; this was the first year "six" was used, and

operators had been on the peak for two days prior to the race, in order to find optimum locations. The 2-meter net was used exclusively for the transmission of starting times to the Official Timer atop the peak; this was the second year for "two" and again it proved to be the most reliable. KØYGH masterminded the event, and many stations were on the scene during the week previous in order to get some experience while race drivers were taking their practice runs. The same group hopes to do an even better job next year. -- KØYGH, EC El Paso County, Colo." (p. 81, February 1963 QST)

Here it is, thirty-five years later, and hams from PPRAA and PPARES are still helping with the Hill Climb. This July 4th, the Hill Climb Museum will hold the 76th running of the race, and we've been asked again to help.

If you're interested in helping, whether or not you've done it before, please give me a call, or show up at the PPRAA meeting in May, as I'll have the waiver forms that are required.

This is an all-day, FUN event, and all are welcome to help. It's also a great way to meet the hams that like public service work, a great way to get your feet wet with public service and practice good operating skills, and a great way to see the race for free!

May Ham & Eggs Activity

□ The May activity Hams and Eggs was re-scheduled from April. We had a fair turn out and everyone had a great time. We missed the ones who didn't show. Everyone that was there received their first playing card towards their poker hand. The winner of Ham and Eggs will receive a prize to be awarded at the June general membership meeting (4 meals at Saturday morning breakfast).

Remember, at the PPRAA Christmas Party, the person with the best poker hand will receive a prize of \$100.00. The only time you can receive a poker card is at the activities and the fox hunts.

The next activity will be June 20th at Metro mini golf at the corner of Galley and Powers. There will be a \$3.00 fee for adults (\$2.00 for kids) to play as long as we have 10 people. It is slightly higher per person if we don't have 10 people.

Renay KAØROY

What is a Roundtable?

Roundtable According to American Heritage:

roundtable (*round'ta'bel*) noun

1. Often round-table (*round'ta'bel*) or round table. A conference or discussion involving several participants.
2. Round Table a. In Arthurian legend, the circular table of King Arthur and his knights. b. The knights of King Arthur considered as a group.

In amateur radio a roundtable is a net, of sorts, that provides hams a forum to gather on the air and share their thoughts, ideas, experiences, and comments on at least a million things. As described in the Arthurian legend, a roundtable is the circular table of King Arthur and his knights. Keeping that picture in your mind, a net control is like King Arthur and the knights can be likened to the hams checking into a roundtable. The circular form is the key metaphor that makes a roundtable work. Like a roundtable discussion where everyone is in the same location, a roundtable net without some sort of order would soon become lopsided and chaotic, and thus, amateurs would soon loose interest.

In the most typical sense, a roundtable net usually has a moderator, host/hostess, or master of ceremonies. Why don't I call the position a net control? Hams who have never heard a roundtable have probably have heard traffic nets, emergency drills, and association nets which have a very formal process and typically have a narrow focus. For the sake of this discussion I am not using net control purposely because a roundtable is so different than most other nets. Keep in mind that I mentioned a forum in which hams can gather and share comments on a million other things.

How does it all work without a net control?

Well, the master of ceremonies usually calls the roundtable like a net control calls a net. For example, here in Colorado Springs on our 2, 6, and 10 meter roundtables, whoever is available among the usual participants at the designated time calls the roundtable. Calling the roundtable is usually informal and is intended to be an open invitation to all amateurs listening. You will hear, "Calling the Colorado Springs area 6 meter roundtable, calling the Colorado Springs area 6 meter

roundtable, this is WBOMHP calling the 6 meter roundtable. This roundtable is open to all amateurs wishing to check in. The purpose of the roundtable is to share any and all information of interest to the amateur community."

At this point the master of ceremonies takes the checkins and keeps track of their order. After it appears that all interested amateurs are checked in, the master of ceremonies may or may not give his/her comments at this time. Either way, the master of ceremonies starts at the top of the checkin list asking each ham in order for any comments. This order is kept so that all have a fair and equal chance at contributing to the roundtable.

The ARRL describes roundtables. "The roundtable has many advantages if run properly. It clears frequencies of interference, especially if all stations involved are on the same frequency, while the enjoyment value remains the same, if not greater. By use of push-to-talk, the conversation can be kept lively and interesting, giving each station operator ample opportunity to participate without waiting overlong for his turn." This description is from the 1977 ARRL Handbook and it was written when HF sideband was where most roundtables were held.

On 2 meter FM everyone is usually on the same frequency and there is usually not adjacent interference as described here, but a roundtable can have the same beneficial effects. How many of you hear what happens on the repeater or simplex when more than two amateurs are trying to have a QSO? If there isn't an agreed upon order, either consciously or subconsciously, there is a lot of doubling and repeating. Now think about five amateurs having a QSO during drive time. Their mind is not only on the radio but also on the road (if they're smart it is). So how do they all get an equal opportunity to contribute and enjoy the QSO. A roundtable! Each one takes a turn in turn and no one doubles so the enjoyment is maximized.

What happens if there are 5 people in a roundtable and amateur number 2 wants to ask amateur number 5 a question? Depending on the values of the individual roundtable, it can be handled in one of two ways. One, the master of ceremonies may let the two stations "go direct" or the master of ceremonies may ask that the answer come from amateur number 5 when it is their turn. Most roundtables discourage going direct for a couple of reasons. First, it downplays the atmosphere of openness; second, it can lead to a small clique that dominates the frequency. Both of these lead to the demise of a popular amateur activity, the QSO.

The ARRL again writes, "Roundtables can become very unpopular if they are not conducted properly. The monologist, off on a long spiel about nothing in particular, cannot be interrupted; make your transmissions short and to the point. "Butting in" is discourteous and unsportsmanlike; don't enter a roundtable or any contact between two other amateurs, unless

you are invited. It is bad enough trying to copy through prevailing interference without the added difficulty of poor voice quality; check your transmitter adjustments frequently. In general, follow the precepts as here in before outlined for the most enjoyment in roundtables as well as any other form of radio telephone communication."

Again, this paragraph was written when HF sideband was where most roundtables were held, but the principle is the same. The monologist can discourage participation in a roundtable very quickly. "Butting in" also has its ups and downs. Most good roundtables will encourage periodic checkins after the roundtable starts and a good master of ceremonies can integrate the late comers without offending either the ones already in the roundtable or those joining. However, it is the late comers responsibility to be patient and wait for his/her turn. Expecting to jump in and immediately take over the roundtable is viewed as impolite and soon destroys the roundtable.

How long does a roundtable last?

How long do you want it to last? One Friday night in the spring of about 1980 on 146.52, amateurs here in Colorado Springs held a 5-hour roundtable. Hams came and went and some came back again. It started about 1900L and ended about midnight. The weather was just cold enough to keep everyone home, and it just happened that a couple of hams started a QSO and before long, late comers joined (they were welcome to join), some of us left to shower, do chores, watch a TV program, and you name it and when they came back to shut down the shack, they found the roundtable still going. Topics covered that night escapes me but you can bet that most of everything communicated was of interest to many amateurs. I would also bet that nothing more than mildly controversial was talked about. Another value that made it fun and very successful, no one was exercising amateur radio politics or trying to prove the Peter Principle. It was truly a fun use of ham radio.

What do you talk about on a roundtable?

Anything that is mutually acceptable to the group. For example, on HF there are roundtables for moon bouncers, VHFers, John Birch Society, doctors, pilots, many, many more. The most important value is "mutually acceptable."

How do you determine what is mutually acceptable?

How about starting with ham radio topics! For example, suppose it's my turn for a comment, the master of ceremonies addresses me by my call and asks for my comments and I respond, "thanks Dave, well it has been a busy week at work and I haven't had much time to play in the ham shack, but, I finally got my QSL card from Fiji. By the way, I am using a new microphone tonight and I'd like everyone's comments on how it sounds if I may. N0UVR and the group, this is WBOMHP." Now that seems to me to be

1. Ham radio, and

2. Non-controversial, and
3. I didn't try to take over the net.

Now how does the roundtable handle general queries like the microphone query?

When a general query to all participants is made, it is customary to continue the order of the roundtable and each participant can make a comment, if they wish, in turn. It is a good idea to have a note pad and pencil to jot down queries from others so that you won't forget to give your comments.

What if someone asks a question after I have made my comments?

Don't worry, there are at least a couple of ways to handle that. Some roundtables go until everyone checks out leaving just the master of ceremonies. What that means is that everyone has as many turns as the roundtable lasts. Another way is for the master of ceremonies to keep track of who asked the question and when the last ham on the list has finished with their comments, he/she can start over again with the list or can just ask if anyone else wants to comment on the query.

Should roundtables be scheduled or can they happen at any time?

They can be either. One of the reasons to schedule a roundtable is so that everyone knows when and what frequency it will be held. That way more hams will remember it. However, if a number of hams happen to find each other on the same frequency at the same time, why not have a QSO in roundtable style! After all, the process of the roundtable is one of best ways to allow ALL participants to contribute and enjoy ham radio.

Should a roundtable have a theme or agenda?

It depends on the roundtable. The PPRAA roundtable is a roundtable intended to be amateur radio in general. That is, like the charter of the PPRAA, the roundtable is intended to be for ALL amateurs; therefore, it invites anything of interest to amateurs. Keep in mind that one aspect of amateur radio may be of great interest to you but not others and vice versa. So, the main thing to consider is there are many aspects of amateur radio that all of us could learn something about. And, who knows, we could learn some aspect of amateur radio that just knocks us off our feet. The bottom line is you will, at very least, get to know your fellow amateurs even if you know all about the topics covered on the roundtable.

Since there is an Elmer net in the Colorado Springs area, will the roundtable compete with it?

No, the Elmer net usually has specific topics given by one or a few amateurs in a lecture type format. The roundtable on the other hand is a forum where everyone contributes something of interest.

Will the roundtable compete with any other nets?

No, the roundtable will not handle traffic with only one exception. That exception is if the traffic is emergency traffic.

Can the roundtable be used to make announcements?

Yes, if they are of interest to ALL amateurs, and, if there is no controversial agenda attached. It is expected that one who want to make an announcement be an equal contributor to the roundtable, not just check in, make the announcement, then leave.

Are there any other rules? If I may use a saying that is probably copyrighted, "No rules, just right!" What that means is that if the mutually acceptable values are adhered to, there is really no need for rules. Excessive rules only restrict the free flow of idea exchange, fellowship, and fun.

So please join us on the PPRAA net each Thursday night at 1900L on 146.58 Simplex. After the informational part of the net, we will have a roundtable. Everyone is welcome.

Please also join us on the 6- and 10-meter roundtables. The 6-meter roundtable will follow the PPRAA 2-meter roundtable on 50.150 MHz (time permitting). The 10-meter roundtable is held on Sunday evenings at 1930L on 28.385 MHz. Both 6- and 10-meter roundtable frequencies are Upper Side Band (USB).

73,
Doug/WBØMHP

*From the Editor
A few last minute items.
Thanks to our who supervised
reclos! A special thanks
to Greg, WA2000, for proof
reading the issue.*

*73
Bill KOØJA*

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